

Claims

1. An optical reference standard(2) comprising an optical
reference material (10) characterised in
5 that the optical reference material (10)
comprises a binder (14) and a cereal (12) formed into
a matrix to fixedly hold an amount of water, the
reference material (10) being constituted with the
binder (14), the cereal (12) and the water present in
10 amounts to provide the reference standard (2) with
desired spectral, mechanical and temporal
characteristics.
2. An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 1
15 characterised in that the cereal (12)
is selected from the group of one or more of oats,
barley and wheat.
3. An optical reference standard as claimed in Claim 2
20 characterised in that the cereal (12)
is oats in the form of one or other of oatmeal and
oat flour.
4. An optical reference standard as claimed in any
25 preceding claim characterised in that
the binder (14) is a gelling agent.
5. An optical reference standard as claimed in any
30 preceding claim characterised in that
the optical reference material (10) further comprises
one or more components (26) selected to vary its
optical density.